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39. (Twice Amended) A computer-based method of claim 20, comprising:
generating at least one electronic catalog source document from the sections; and
generating at least one compound document having sections similar to that of the
electronic catalog;
enclosing the electronic catalog source document within the compound document; and
providing an annotation section referring to entries in the electronic catalog source
document.

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41. (Twice Amended) A computer-based method of claim 20, comprising:
providing a sales-model tag in the header, for specifying at least one of a purchase type
and a sales type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.

REMARKS

In the present response, claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19-24, 26-33, 35-39 and 41 have been amended. Claims 34 and 44 have been cancelled, without prejudice. These amendments, however, should not be construed in any way as acquiescence to any of the rejections, but rather made solely to expedite prosecution of the instant application. Applicant reserves the option to further prosecute the same or a similar subject matter in the instant or a subsequent application. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-33 and 35-43 remain as the claims pending in the present application. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing changes and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 20, 34, 35 and 39-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, contending that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner rejected claims 2-3, 9 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schumacher et al. (U.S. Patent 6,269,446), in view of Mike Heck (ref. V, Page 3), referred to hereafter as Heck. The Examiner rejected claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dana Mackenzie (ref. U, Page 1), referred to hereafter as Mackenzie, in view of Heck. The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mackenzie. The Examiner rejected claims 21-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Schumacher et al., in view of Heck and Mackenzie. The rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the remarks and amendments.

35 U.S.C. § 101

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the document is *disposed on computer-readable medium*. In addition, claim 1 recites that the entries in the document are *selectable by a user using the method information of the first portion* and that the user can *verify the first and second portions of the document and can authenticate the source of the document using the security information of the third portion*. Thus, claim 1 recites a practical application in the technological arts in that the document provides for purchasing and/or selling of the entries in the second portion of the document by a user of the document. The document provides further practical application in providing for verification of the content and authentication of the source of the document.

Applicant submits that the recitation in claim 1 of a document disposed on computer-readable medium and achieving a practical application falls within the definitions provided by the *Examination Guidelines* and that claim 1 includes proper statutory subject matter permitted under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and thus include proper statutory subject matter, at least by their dependency on claim 1.

With respect to the rejection of claims 20, 35 and 39-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of providing an electronic catalog to a user for *verification of the content by the user and for selection of objects for at least one of sale by and purchase by the user*. Thus, it is submitted that claim 20 recites the post-computer process activities of verifying and selection of objects that fall within the definitions provided by the *Examination Guidelines* and that claim 20 includes proper statutory subject matter permitted under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 21-33 and 35-43 depend directly or indirectly from claim 20 and thus include proper statutory subject matter, at least by their dependency on claim 20.

35 U.S.C. § 112

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claim 9 has been amended to recite *verify(ing)*. The recitation of “the” portions in claims 2 and 3 is considered acceptable practice in referring to elements of the claims having proper antecedent basis. The use of the term “said”

can be considered more formalistic. It is also considered good practice to be consistent in the use of the definite article “the” and the term “said” throughout the claims. Thus, the Examiner’s suggestion would require extensive amendments throughout the claims to provide consistency in the use of “the” and “said”. Applicant considers the recitation in claim 3 of “at least one of the first, second *and* third portions” to be proper in that the term “at least one” can refer to a plurality, which is consistent with the use of the term “and”. The Examiner’s suggestion for the use of the term “or” would incorrectly imply that a single one of the portions has address information. Based on the above, it is requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

With respect to the rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), neither Schumacher et al. nor Heck teach or suggest a document having *ordering method information and/or payment method information* in a first portion, *offer to sell and/or offer to buy entries* in a second portion that are *selectable by a user using the method information of the first portion* and security information in a third portion by which the user can verify the content of the first and second portions and can authenticate the source of the document, as recited in claim 1. Schumacher et al. appear to describe a method and apparatus for authenticating images from digital cameras. There is no teaching or suggestion in Schumacher et al. to provide ordering or payment method information used to buy or sell entries in a catalog.

Heck appears to describe software to distribute and collect files using a web site. A library of files can be catalogued, i.e., an indexed database of the files can be created. A web interface can be created by customizing header, footer and body styles of template files. There is no teaching or suggestion in Heck for an electronic catalog having entries that can be bought or sold by a user using ordering or payment information in the catalog. Further, the combination of Schumacher et al. and Heck does not teach or suggest a *document disposed on computer-readable medium* having *ordering method information and/or payment method information* in a first portion and *offer to sell and/or offer to buy entries* in a second portion that are *selectable by a user using the method information of the first portion*. It is respectfully suggested that claim 1 is patentable over Schumacher et al. in view of Heck. Claims 2-8 are directly or indirectly

dependent on claim 1, and are patentable over Schumacher et al. in view of Heck at least by their dependency.

Claim 9 recites a computer program to, among other things, *identify ordering and/or payment method information in a header of a catalog and to identify an offer to sell entry and/or an offer to buy entry in a body of the catalog*. For the reasons described above with relation to claim 1, Schumacher et al. and Heck, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer program to identify ordering method information, payment method information, an offer to sell entry, or an offer to buy entry in the respective header and body of an electronic catalog. It is respectfully suggested that claim 9 is also patentable over Schumacher et al. in view of Heck.

With respect to the rejection of claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Mackenzie describes the use of extensible markup language (XML) to tag data items on web pages. The tags can describe the context of a data item and can be used to perform intelligent web searches for data. The examples provided by Mackenzie include tags identifying chemical compounds and tags for <TITLE> and <AUTHOR>. By using the tags in a search, e.g., <AUTHOR> Gates, the search is focused on "Gates" in the context of <AUTHOR>. Applicant recognizes the utility of XML language and describes its use in relation to an electronic catalog protocol document (page 12, lines 4-11).

However, independent claims 10, 14 and 16 recite computer programs, while Mackenzie refers to the computer language that the programs can be written in. Mackenzie does not teach or suggest a computer program to, among other things, *identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body; identify ordering and/or payment method information in the header of the catalog; and identify an offer to sell entry and/or an offer to buy entry in the body of the catalog*. As previously noted with respect to claim 9, Heck also does not provide such a teaching or suggestion. Thus, Mackenzie and Heck, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer program to identify ordering method information, payment method information, an offer to sell entry, or an offer to buy entry in the respective header and body of an electronic catalog. It is respectfully suggested that claims 10, 14 and 16 are patentable over Mackenzie in view of Heck. Claims 11-13, 15, 17 and 18 depend directly or indirectly from respective claims 10, 14 and 16, and are patentable over Mackenzie in view of Heck at least by their dependency.

With respect to the rejection of claims 19-33 and 35-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the independent claims 19 and 20 recite a computer storage medium and a computer-based method, respectively, for an electronic catalog having a header section with *ordering and/or payment method information* in the header of the catalog and *an offer to sell entry and/or an offer to buy entry* in the body of the catalog. For the reasons described above with relation to claims 1, 9, 10, 14 and 16, Schumacher et al., Heck and Mackenzie, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest computer storage medium or a computer-based method including *ordering and/or payment method information* in a header and *an offer to sell entry and/or an offer to buy entry* in a body. It is respectfully suggested that claims 19 and 20 are patentable over Schumacher et al. in view of Heck and Mackenzie. Claims 21-33 and 35-43 depend directly or indirectly from respective claims 20 and are patentable over Schumacher et al. in view of Heck and Mackenzie at least by their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are clear, concise, and are within the requirements set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Further, Applicant submits that the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention and that the claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the pending rejections, and early and favorable reconsideration are respectfully solicited.

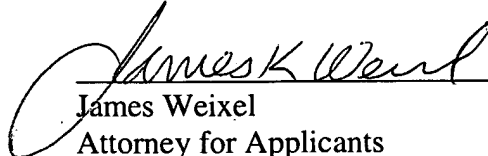
Applicant does not believe that any additional fee or extension is required. However, should any extension be required for timely consideration of the present application, Applicant hereby petitions for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely

consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account No. Deposit Account No. 07-2339.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-Up Version of Changes to the Application

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 2, 8-12, 14, 16, 19-24, 26-33, 35-39 and 41 were amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A document for an electronic catalog protocol disposed on computer-readable medium, comprising:

a first portion, the first portion having at least one method information selected from ordering method information and payment method information;

a second portion, the second portion having at least one entry selected from an offer to sell and an offer to buy, wherein the at least one entry is selectable by a user using the method information of the first portion; and

a third portion, the third portion having security information, the security information configured with the at least one entry selected and at least one method information selected for verification of the first and second portions by the user, and for authentication of a source of the document by the user.

2. (Amended) A document of claim 1, wherein the portions are capable of being distributed over a network to a plurality of servers connected to the network.

8. (Amended) A document of claim 7, wherein authenticity of an element of a modified electronic catalog document is verifiable.

9. (Twice Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for verifying authenticity of an electronic catalog, the program including instructions for causing a processor to:

identify [elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body] at least one of ordering method information and payment method information in a header of the catalog;

identify at least one entry selected from an offer to sell and an offer to buy in a body of the catalog;

locate a digital signature in a footer of the electronic catalog; and

[analyze] verify the signature to verify the authenticity of the header, footer and body of the electronic catalog.

10. (Twice Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for updating an electronic catalog, the program including instructions for causing a processor to:

identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;

identify at least one of ordering method information and payment method information in the header of the catalog;

identify at least one of an offer to sell entry and an offer to buy entry in the body of the catalog;

initiate instructions for reading the elements of the electronic catalog to determine whether information therein is current; and

update the elements of the electronic catalog with current information.

11. (Amended) A computer program of claim 10, wherein [the parser] reading the elements classifies elements according to time-stamps included therein, and wherein the [update software] updating deletes items which have expired.

12. (Amended) A computer program of claim 10, wherein [the parser] reading the elements classifies elements as either modified or unmodified and wherein the [update software modified] updating modifies items which are identified as modified.

14. (Twice Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for annotation of an electronic catalog, the program including instructions for causing a processor to:

identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;

identify at least one of ordering method information and payment method information in the header of the catalog;

identify at least one of an offer to sell entry and an offer to buy entry in the body of the catalog;

generate at least one electronic catalog source document from the elements;

generate at least one compound document having elements similar to that of the electronic catalog;

enclose the electronic catalog source document within the compound document; and
provide an annotation section referring to entries in the electronic catalog source document.

16. (Twice Amended) A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for assisting purchases and sales of a plurality of items according to a plurality of transaction types, the program including instructions for causing a processor to:

identify elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;
identify at least one of ordering method information and payment method information in the header of the catalog;

identify at least one of an offer to sell entry and an offer to buy entry in the body of the catalog; and

generate a sales-model tag in the header, for specifying the type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.

19. (Twice Amended) A computer storage medium containing a computer program having means for identifying elements of an electronic catalog document for subsequent distribution of the elements, comprising:

means for [identify] identifying elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body;

means for identifying at least one of ordering method information and payment method information in the header of the catalog;

means for identifying at least one of an offer to sell entry and an offer to buy entry in the body of the catalog; and

means for determining a location in the storage medium for storing each of the elements of the electronic catalog;

means for storing each of the elements in the respective location in the storage medium;
and

means for retrieving each of the elements for the respective location for subsequent distribution.

20. (Twice Amended) A computer-based method of providing [an] a verifiable electronic catalog, comprising:

providing a header section to identify a source of [an] the electronic catalog and to identify at least one of ordering method information and payment method information;

providing a body section to permit object entries in the electronic catalog, the object entries corresponding to objects available for at least one of sale by and purchase by the source of the electronic catalog;

providing a footer section including information for verifying content of the header and body sections; and

formatting the sections so that they can be presented [as an electronic catalog] to a user for [action] verification of the content by the user and for selection of objects for at least one of sale by and purchase by the user in accordance with the at least one ordering method information and payment method information.

21. (Twice Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

distributing [elements] sections of [an] the electronic catalog [document] over a network to a plurality of servers connected to the network.

22. (Amended) A method of claim 21, wherein the distribution of [elements] sections is via URL links.

23. (Amended) A method of claim 20, wherein the [definition permits] object entries permit the user to select between URL links and in-line data for presentation of multimedia content.

24. (Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

[providing a digital signature in] the source digitally signing the footer section of [an] the electronic catalog [document] to provide a digital signature.

26. (Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

integrating [elements] sections of a plurality of electronic catalogs [documents] to provide an integrated electronic catalog[document].

27. (Amended) A method of claim 26, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of [an] the integrated electronic catalog[document].

28. (Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

assembling a plurality of electronic catalog [document elements] sections to provide an assembled electronic catalog[document].

29. (Amended) A method of claim 28, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of [an] the assembled electronic catalog[document].

30. (Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

aggregating a plurality of electronic catalogs [documents] to provide an aggregated electronic catalog[document].

31. (Amended) A method of claim 30, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of [an] the aggregated electronic catalog[document].

32. (Amended) A method of claim 20, further comprising:

disassembling an electronic catalog [document] to provide a disassembled electronic catalog[document].

33. (Amended) A method of claim 32, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of [a] the disassembled electronic catalog[document].

35. (Twice Amended) A computer-based method [for updating an electronic catalog] of claim 20, comprising:

[identifying elements of an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body;]

reading the [elements] sections of the electronic catalog to determine whether information therein is current; and

updating the electronic catalog [document] with current information.

36. (Amended) A computer-based method of claim 35, wherein the [elements] sections of the electronic catalog [document] include time-stamps, wherein [the parser reads] reading the sections includes reading the time-stamps, and wherein [the update software deletes] updating includes deleting expired elements of the electronic catalog document based on the time-stamps.

37. (Amended) A computer-based method of claim 35, wherein the [elements] sections of [an] the electronic catalog [document] include an indication whether the [elements] sections have been modified, wherein [the parser reads] reading the sections includes reading the indication, and wherein [the update software produces] updating includes producing a modified electronic catalog [document] based on the indication[output from the parser].

38. (Amended) A computer-based method of claim 35, further comprising:

[providing signature software for] signing [an updated] the electronic catalog after updating the electronic catalog.

39. (Twice Amended) A computer-based method [for annotation of an electronic catalog] of claim 20, comprising:

[identifying elements of an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body;]

generating at least one electronic catalog source document from the [elements] sections;
and

[generate] generating at least one compound document having [elements] sections similar to that of the electronic catalog;

enclosing the electronic catalog source document within the compound document; and

providing an annotation section referring to entries in the electronic catalog source document.

41. (Twice Amended) A computer-based method [for assisting purchases and sales of a plurality of items according to a plurality of transaction types] of claim 20, comprising:

[identifying elements of an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body; and]

providing a sales-model tag in the header, for specifying [the] at least one of a purchase type and a sales type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.